SPECIAL ELECTION EDITIONSPECIAL ELECTION EDITION**

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EXTRA

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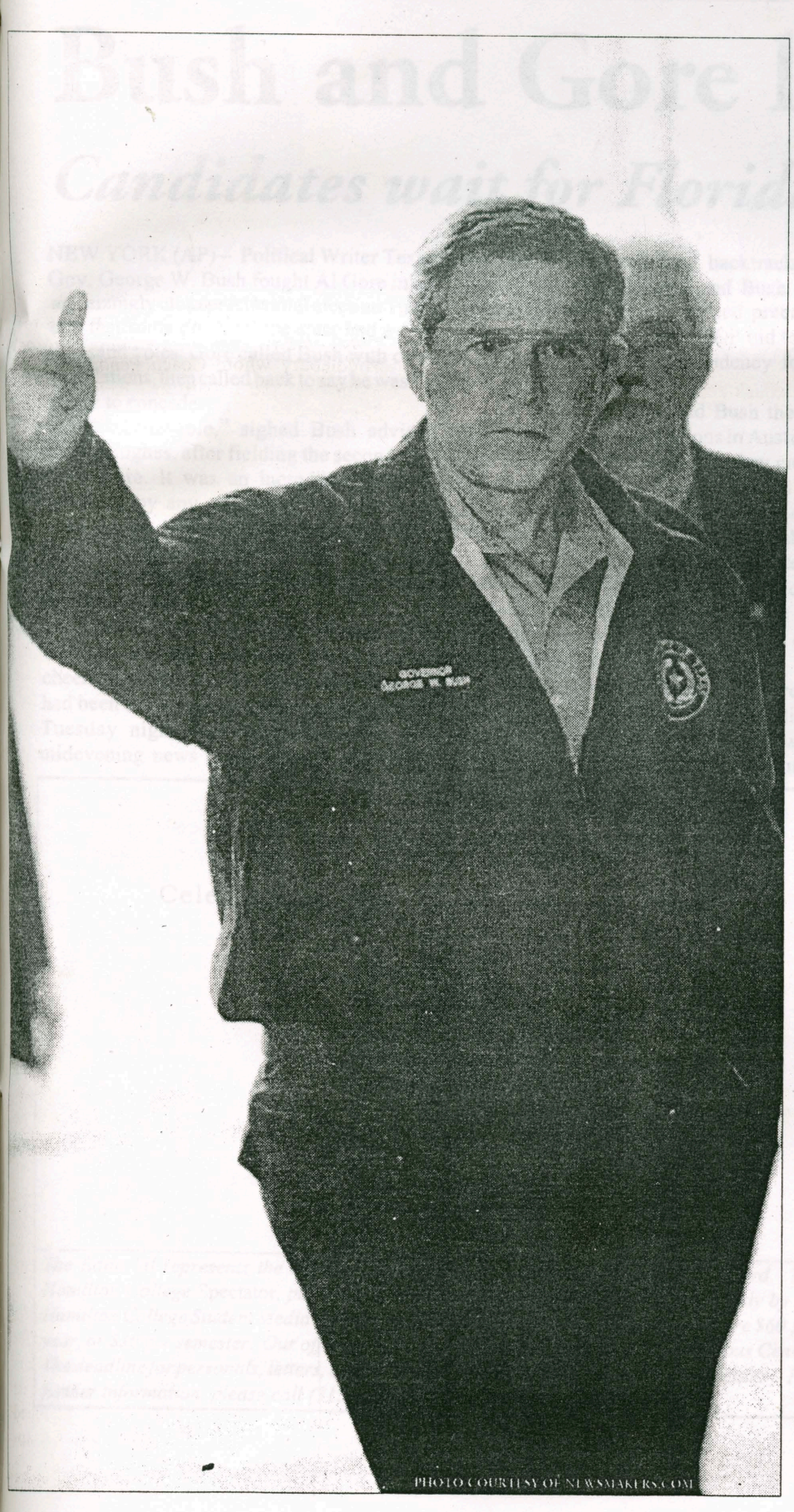
Race too close to call:

Will it be a Dubya or will it be four Gore years?



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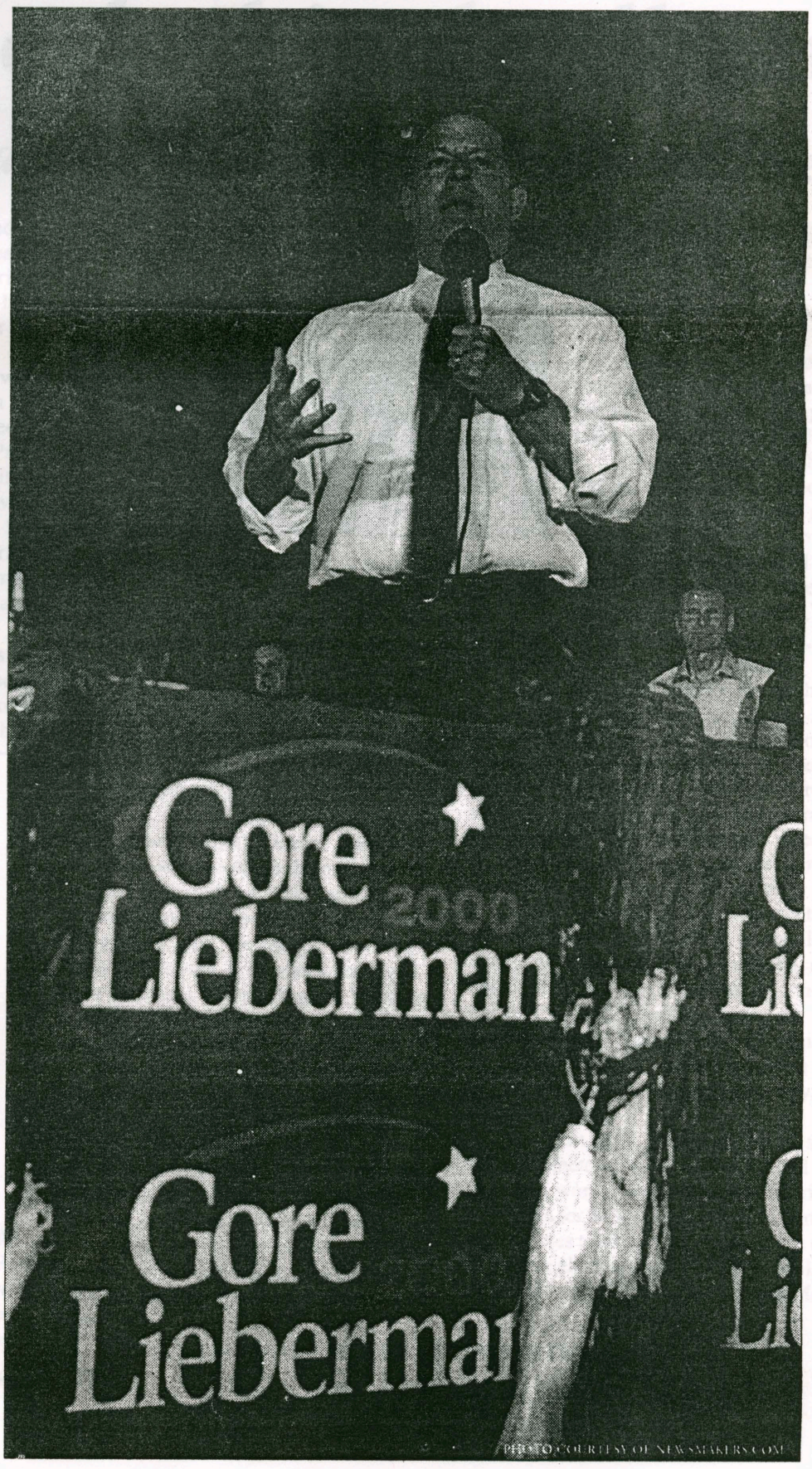

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Hillary Clinton defeats Rick Lazio for Senate seat

NEW YORK (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton triumphed in her historic quest for the U.S. Senate, defeating homegrown GOP Rep. Rick Lazio on Tuesday to become the only first lady ever elected to public office.

The campaign, which pitted her against a powerhouse New York City mayor and then a lesser-known Republican congressman, was the longest and costliest race in the state's history.

It saw issues of character, place of birth, marital fidelity, and campaign finance collide with discussion of education, Social Security and the state's economy.

But Clinton herself — her activism, her issues, her president husband and her love-it-or-hate-it personality — proved to be the main issue in the campaign against the Long Island congressman to replace retiring Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Her victory was projected based on interviews with voters as they left polling places. The interviews were conducted by Voter News Service for The Associated Press and five television networks.

"She overcame the skeptics, and worked and worked and won," Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said at the Manhattan hotel serving as Clinton's election-night headquarters.

Clinton's planning for the Senate race began in the living quarters of the White House in February of last year when she met for several hours with New York political veteran Harold Ickes, a former White House deputy chief of staff during President Clinton's first term. That very day, the Senate voted on whether to remove her husband,

AP

Rick Lazio reacts to his election loss.

an impeachment triggered by his affair with Monica Lewinsky.

By early July, she was at Moynihan's upstate New York farm receiving his blessing and kicking off a summer-long "listening tour" of New York. In January, she moved into a $1.7 million house she and the president had bought in suburban Westchester County.

At the time, the likely Republican candidate was New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. But the "clash of the titans" wasn't to be. Giuliani never seemed to warm to the campaign. By mid-May, he was out of the race, battling prostate cancer and beset by marital woes.

Coming off the GOP bench, Lazio literally fell flat on his face, a Memorial Day parade mishap which left him with a fat lip and stitches. But within days, Lazio was running almost even with Clinton in the polls and amassing a campaign war chest that would soon surpass the first lady's own impressive lode.

By mid-October, the two had spent a combined $58.6 million in the race. With the $19 million spent by Giuliani added in, the race became among the most expensive Senate campaigns in history.

Lazio advertised himself as the "real New Yorker," a moderate Republican who traveled the state on a bus called "The Mainstream Express."

In fund-raising letters, he denounced the Clintons for "embarrassing the nation." Republican allies said the first lady wanted to

AP

The Clintons prepare to vote.

use the Senate seat as a stepping stone to run for president.

Clinton repeatedly sought to portray Lazio as out of step with New Yorkers, noting that he had served as a deputy whip under former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. But obviously she, too, has experience in Washington.

"With her background, she brings a major advantage to Congress," said the Rev. Floyd Flake, a former Democratic congressman from New York. "She is not like the average junior senator."

Bush and Gore locked in deadheat;

Candidates wait for Florida results to determine next Prez

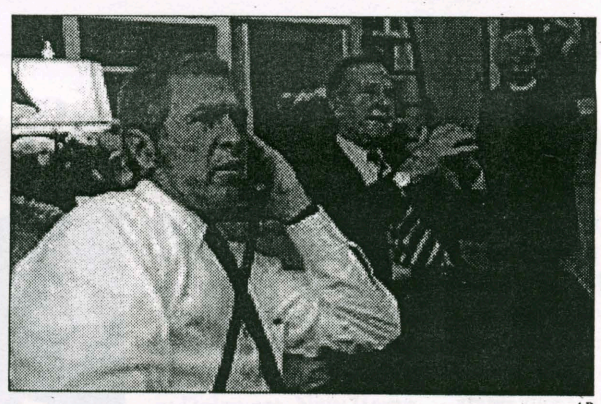
NEW YORK (AP) – Political Writer Texas Gov. George W. Bush fought Al Gore in an agonizingly close presidential election Tuesday *that came down to one state* and a few thousand votes. Gore called Bush with congratulations, then called back to say he wasn't ready to concede.

"Unbelievable," sighed Bush adviser Karen Hughes, after fielding the second call from Gore. It was an incredible political spectacle by any standard. "There's never been a night like this one," said Gore campaign chairman William Daley, after his boss retired for the night - unsure whether he had won or not. "

Until the results in Florida become official our campaign continues," Daley said to cheering supporters in Nashville. Florida had been the epicenter of the campaign and Tuesday night was beyond chaotic. At midevening news organizations said Gore was the winner, but they backtracked as more votes were counted and Bush eased ahead. Republicans maintained precarious control of Congress as the GOP bid to hold the House, Senate and presidency for the first time in 46 years.

TV networks projected Bush the winner, igniting GOP celebrations in Austin. An hour later, the conclusive vote they cited in Florida had tightened. The Associated Press did not declare a presidential winner, citing the ongoing tally. Supporters in Nashville chanted, "Recount!" and indeed state law made it certain that whoever wins Florida, officials will review the vote. In the most dramatic election in decades, it all came down to Florida.

AP's analysis showed the narrowest of margins with final votes still being tallied in several Democratic counties. The networks projected a Bush victory that would put him



AP

The Bushes watch election returns in Austin.

over the top and that sparked gloom in the Gore camp in Nashville and triumphant cheers in Texas. The election offers voters a choice of four more years of Democratic rule or a Republican "fresh start."

A Bush victory would give America its second father-son presidents after John Adams (1797-01) and John Quincy Adams (1825-29). Florida would give Bush 271 votes in the Electoral College, one over the majority needed to claim the presidency.

Just thousands of votes separated the two candidates in Florida out of almost 6 million cast, and the margin was sure to require a recount. Four states were still to close to call: Florida, Oregon, Wisconsin and New Mexico. Gore won Iowa, a Democratic bastion that nearly went to Bush.

With Florida officials continuing their tally, the New York Times said Bush had won and congratulated him on "the amazing political feat of laping to the White House after only six years in public office." Republicans retained control of the Senate - if narrowly - and looked likely to keep a small majority in the House as well. Bush or Gore, the next president will be submitting his first-year agenda to a deeply divided Congress.

Gore won big battlegrounds in Pennsylvania, Michigan and California while Bush claimed Texas, Ohio and a string of smaller states, including Gore's Tennessee and Bill Clinton's Arkansas. Green Party candidate Ralph Nader had just 3 percent of the national vote, but did well enough in to potentially tip several states to Bush.

Ever confident, Bush went out for dinner and awaited final returns. When the news media called Florida for Gore in midevening, Bush said, "I don't believe some of these states that they called, like Florida." Regarding the vice president, Bush said, "I've run against a formidable opponent."

Gore, awaiting returns in Nashville, wasn't heard from until his calls to Bush. Voters settled a full roster of propositions on the first general election day of the 21st Century. Residents of Colorado and Oregon, shaken by school shooting rampages, cracked down on gun show patrons and sweeping private school voucher proposals were defeated in California and Michigan.

Democrats needed to pick up eight seats in the Senate to wrest control - an uphill task they could not attain. The presidential race - among the closest in a generation - foretold the end to Bill Clinton's turbulent eight years in office. The math was excruciating for both campaigns - both candidates were within reach of an electoral majority, and agonizing defeat.

By 4 a.m. EST, Bush had won 29 states for 246 electoral votes of the needed 270. Gore had won 17 states plus the District of Columbia for 243. Florida offered a tantalizing 25 votes to its winner. Maine gave three of its four electoral votes to Gore, while the final one was still undecided. Senate Major-

Please see ***Election****, page 3*

The Spectator *EXTRA!*

Celebrating our 101st year in print

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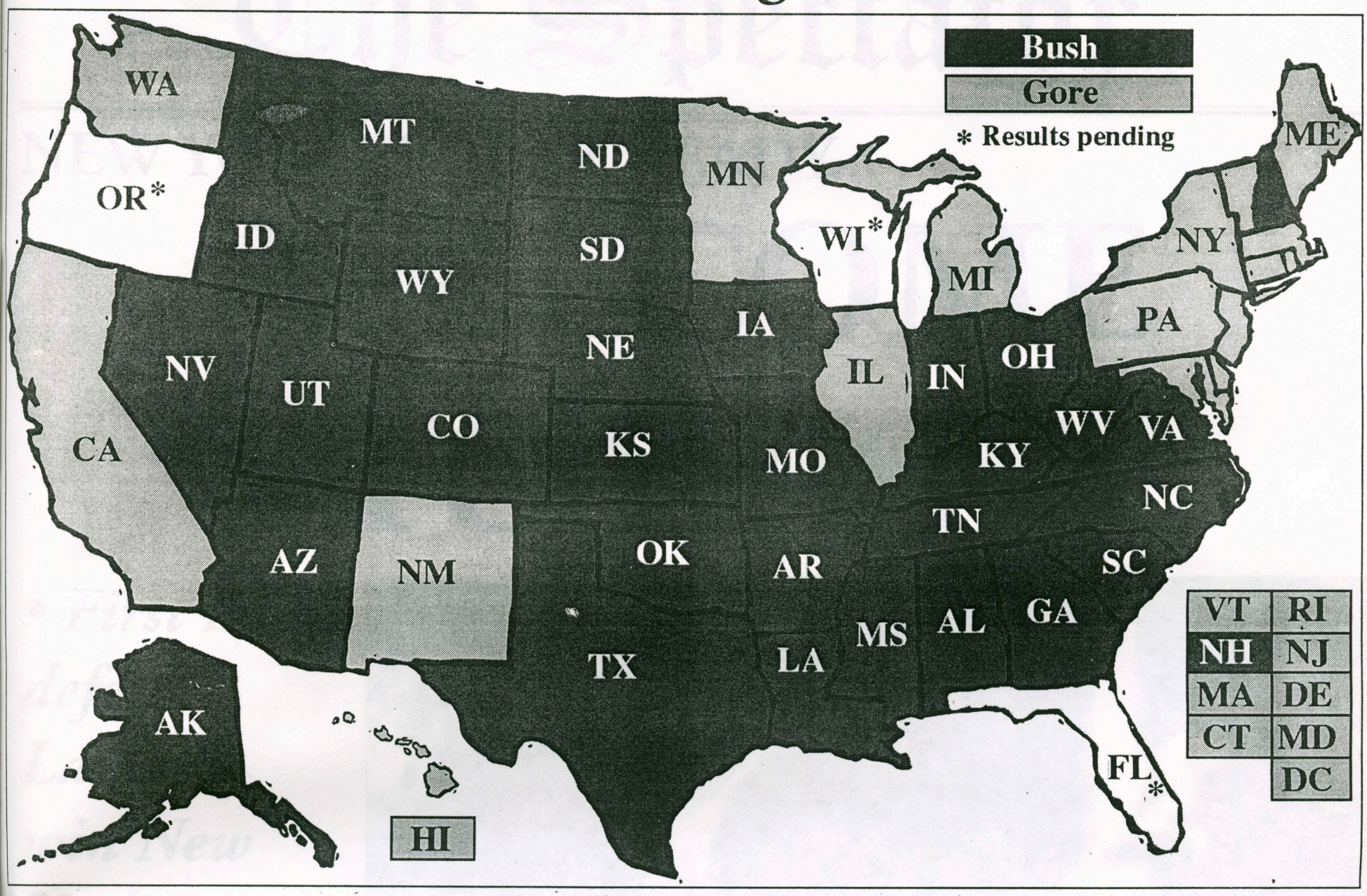
2000 Electoral College Breakdown



Nation watches and waits as next President hangs in the ballots

Election continued from page 2

ity Leader Trent Lott said, "I'm used to counting the votes in the Senate and the House of Representatives, but I'm not used to counting votes in the electoral college."

As the anxiety mounted, Bush changed his plans to watch the returns with a large group of family and friends at a hotel. He opted instead for the seclusion of the governor's mansion. It was no less tense in Democratic quarters. "It will be late and there will be lots of surprises," said Gore campaign chairman, William Daley.

No vote was overlooked. Party sources say Gore aides called for fresh troops for New Hampshire get out the vote operations. The Ted Kennedy campaign sent 250 or so volunteers - all that for four electoral votes. Not that it mattered, but with votes tallied from 92 percent of the precincts, Bush had 45,375,356 votes and Gore 45,095,316. Nader was at 3 percent and Pat Buchanan barely registered.

Nader said he didn't mind that his race caused electoral mischief, proclaiming, "You can't spoil a system spoiled to the core." Interviews as voters left their polling places by Voter News Service said that a candidate's position on issues was more influential than his personal qualities, and about one in five voters didn't make up their minds until the last week. Many of those tipped toward Gore.

There were hopes the showdown would inspire higher turnout, reversing the trend of recent elections. At a West Little Rock polling site, the line snaked through a church gymnasium and out into the parking lot. In

AP

Al Gore continued to campaign on election day.

Reisterstown, Md., attorney Paul Beckman said, "I'd walk a mile to vote." The voting day poll indicated Bush fared well among those who cared most about world affairs and taxes. Voters who cared most about Medicare and prescription drugs, Social Security, health care and the economy tended to favor Gore. Both candidates were seen as good for schools, an issue that traditionally has favored Democrats.

Individual considerations had an impact: Voters who cared most about a candidate's honesty favored Bush and those who wanted a president with experience mostly sided with Gore. About one in four said reports that Bush had been arrested in 1976 for drunken driving was important to their vote.

Nearly half of voters said Clinton "scandals" was an important reason for their choice. Eleven gubernatorial contests were being decided Tuesday, along with legislatures that will wield wide influence in next year's congressional redistricting. Democrats held their governorships in Delaware, New Hampshire, Indiana, New Hampshire and North Carolina - and scored an upset in West Virginia, where Gov. Cecil Underwood lost to Rep. Bob Wise.

But it was the race between the son of a former president and the son of a former senator that captured the attention of voters who had often ignored politics during recent years of relative peace and ongoing prosperity. Bush, 54, just six years into his first political job, promised to end the Clinton-Gore "season of cynicism," cut taxes, improve schools, build up the military and reshape Social Security. Benefiting from family connections and Texas-sized expectations, Bush raised a record-shattering $103 million as he aimed to settle a score as well as reach the political pinnacle: Clinton-Gore swept his father from office in 1993.

In TV ads and on the campaign trail, Bush said Gore couldn't be trusted. Gore, 52, said Bush didn't have the experience to be president. The Texas governor countered by tapping his father's defense secretary Dick Cheney, a Washington veteran, as running mate. Gore chose Lieberman, the first Jewish candidate on a major national ticket, and a voice of moral authority during the impeachment debate. After eight months and $250 million in TV ads, most pre-election polls showed Bush with a narrow advantage in the popular vote, and he sought victory-sealing upsets in Democratic-leaning states like California and Wisconsin. Along with the governors races, about 200 legislative contests could settle the balance of power in 20 states and determine which party controls the redrawing of political districts for the next decade. In a burst of direct democracy, 42 state ballots offered 204 citizen initiatives and referendums from legislatures.

Up and down the ballot, nearly $3 billion was spent on this year's elections. Outside interest groups spent about $400 million on TV ads alone, a figure certain to renew calls for campaign finance changes. It was a rollercoaster presidential race. Both Bush and Gore promised a new tone to follow the Clinton years.

The vice president campaigned as "my own man," wary of voter discontent after Clinton's sexual episode with an intern led to partisan turmoil and impeachment. He said he was best suited to continue the economic expansion of the Clinton years while Bush dismissed Democratic accomplishments and offered broad tax cuts and Social Security reform.

After six years of divided government, Bush promised to end gridlock, and he kept a public distance from a Republican Congress that is relatively unpopular with voters. Democratic congressional leaders worked independently of Gore in their fight for control of one or both chambers.

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NEW YORKERS GET READY...

WELCOME TO HILL!

- *First Lady defeats Lazio to win New York Senate Seat*

- *Democrats take Lazio's Long Island House seat*

- *Complete election coverage inside*

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